

Media, PA – On Monday evening, students, parents, teachers and friends gathered at the Wayne Art Center to enjoy artwork produced by the region's high-school students. Some 100 pieces of art from high schools throughout the district were entered in the annual 7th Congressional District Art Competition—titled “An Artistic Discovery”—hosted by Congressman Joe Sestak PA – 07). This year's grand prize winner was Springfield High School's Hayden Dahmm, a 9th grader who submitted his pastel work “Plate of Mangoes.” His work will be hung in the halls of the United States Capitol. A list of all winners follows this release. — “I congratulate Hayden today on his winning submission. Plate of Mangoes is a beautiful piece, and Hayden is a talented young man,” said Congressman Sestak. “I also extend my warm congratulations to all of our winners and to everyone who submitted artwork today. I am truly moved by the quality of these pieces, and of the passion for art exhibited by our district's students.”

He added: “I'm often taken with the John F. Kennedy quote that notes. ‘I look forward to an America which will reward achievement in the arts as we reward achievement in business or statecraft. I look forward to an America which will steadily raise the standards of artistic accomplishment and which will steadily enlarge cultural opportunities for all of our citizens. And I look forward to an America which commands respect throughout the world not only for its strength but for its civilization as well.’”

The students' art will continue to be showcased in the halls of the center until May 9. Congressman Sestak will also present certificates to the top finishers in each category of art submitted. The competition was judged by a panel of distinguished art enthusiasts. They were: Alice Beamesderfer (Associate Director for Collections and Project Support at the Philadelphia Museum of Art); Jim Cobb (President, Wayne Arts Center); Marietta Dantonio-Fryer (Professor of Fine Art, Cheyney University); Bertha Steinhardt Gutman (Associate Professor of Studio Art and Art History, Delaware County Community College); Joel T. Kenner (Professor of Art, Cheyney University); Karl J. Kuerner (Painter); Georganna Lenssen (Instructor, Wayne Arts Center); and Julie Saecker Schneider (Undergraduate Fine Arts Chair, Associate Professor, University of Pennsylvania).

Initiated by members of the U.S. House of Representatives in 1982, the event is a nationwide annual art competition that allows high school students from all fifty states to showcase their artistic ability. The winning work from the competition will be displayed in an eleven month exhibit in the Cannon tunnel that leads into the U.S. Capitol.

7th Congressional District Art Competition Winners

## Category Winners

### Photography:

First Prize: Shannon Boyle- Garnet Valley- 11th – Untitled- Robin Brewer

Honorable Mention: Rachel Aslaksen - Strath Haven HS- 11th - Ghost Soldiers- Leslie Taylor

### Black and White Drawing:

First Prize: Roz Patterson- Radnor HS- 12th- Alpine Ski Racing- Susan Wolf

Honorable Mention: Jesus Flores- Penncrest HS- 11th- Snow Leopard- Concetta Mattioni

Sarah Coote- Episcopal Academy- 11th- Soldiers of Sioma- David Sigel

### Color Drawing:

First Prize: Hayden Dahmm- Springfield HS- 9th- Plate of Mangoes- David Jurkiewicz

Honorable Mention: Alexandra Wolfson- Radnor HS- 12th- Crayons- Susan Wolf

### Canvas:

First Prize: Sarah McGovern- Episcopal Academy- 11th- Skull & Glass- David Sigel

Honorable Mention: Jonah Stern- Jack Barrack Hebrew Academy- 11th- The Artist in His Studio- Laura Stern

### Printmaking:

First Prize: Ashveen Bains- Upper Darby HS- 10th- Inspired Tree- Ellen Flocco

Honorable Mention: Liping Chi - UpperDarby HS- 12th- Clouds- Elizabeth Harendza or Ellen Flocco

Watercolors:

First Prize: Lauren Wolbach Ridley HS- 11th- Katy- Kathleen Casey

Honorable Mention: Calla Butler Penncrest HS- 12th- Untitled- Concetta Mattioni

Mixed Media

First Prize: Taylor Martin- Strath Haven HS- 11th- Untitled- Leslie Taylor

Honorable Mention: Michaela Anderson - The Woodlynde School- 9th- Life through My Eyes- Krystal Reinhard

Graphic Design

First Prize: Patrick Kneass - Upper Darby HS- 11th- Reflections- Barbara Lauer or Ellen Flocco

Honorable Mention: Tashana Staehle - Upper Darby HS- 11th- Opportunity- Barbara Lauer or Ellen Flocco

## Grand Prize

Hayden Dahmm- Springfield HS- 9th- Plate of Mangoes - David Jurkiewicz

*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.*